

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6972

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 01623

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, IR
SUBJ: SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF BELL
HELICOPTER PAYMENTS

REF: STATE 036729

1. EMBASSY GIVES FOLLOWING RESPONSES TO INFORMATION
REQUESTED REFTEL, KEYED TO QUESTIONS A THROUGH D IN REFTEL.
A. GENERAL MOHAMMAD KHATEMI WAS CHAIRMAN OF AIR TAXI BETWEEN
1957 AND 1965, ACCORDING TO ORAL STATEMENT TO EMBASSY BY
REGISTRATION OFFICE OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE. SAME SOURCE SAID AHMAD
SHAFIK (DECEASED) BECAME CHAIRMAN OF AIR TAXI IN 1965.
B. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO IRANIAN PUBLIC RECORDS THAT WOULD SHOW
THAT GENERAL KHATEMI BECAME A SILENT PARTNER IN STP OR AIR TAXI
IN 1967.
C. AIR TAXI COMPANY REPRESENTED BELL HELICOPTER IN IRAN BETWEEN
1957 AND 1959. SOME TIME IN 1959, BELL HELICOPTER REPRESENTATION
WENT TO FIRM KNOWN AS AVIATION DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (ADC), ACTING
AS COMMERCIAL AGENTS FOR SALE OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT
ON BEHALF OF SEVERAL AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS. WILLIAM H. FRENCH
WAS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ADC IN 1959. EMBASSY UNABLE TO
DETERMINE FROM OUR RECORDS HOW LONG ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ADC
AND BELL CONTINUED; BELL OPENED ITS OWN OFFICE IN IRAN IN 1973.
SOURCE OF INFORMATION PARA C IS INDEX CARD IN EMBASSY COMMERCIAL
LIBRARY.

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D. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION THAT BELL CONCLUDED AGENCY OR
DISTRIBUTOR-TYPE AGREEMENT WITH STP OR AIR TAXI IN 1968. HOW-
EVER, AIR TAXI'S REPRESENTATION OF BELL HELICOPTER IN PERIOD
1957-1959 (PARA B ABOVE) WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN COVERED
BY SUCH A WRITTEN AGREEMENT.
SULLIVAN

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